

House Standing Committee on Taxation  
Chair Rep. Richard Carlson  
Vice Chair Rep. Scott Schwab  
Ranking Minority Member Rep. Tom Sawyer

Members of the Committee,

It is my pleasure to come before you today and speak in favor of HB2085. This is an issue that has affected the South Side community in Sedgwick County in recent years and I'm proud to be part of a solution that has been sponsored by every House member in South Wichita and the surrounding towns.

Currently, in the event of a natural disaster, manufactured homes and stick built homes are taxed differently. This was the case when a tornado hit South Wichita in April of 2012. Those who live in manufactured homes had to pay the property taxes for the full year, while when the same tornado hit a stick built home across the street, the owner stopped paying property taxes the day their home was destroyed.

House Bill 2085 will reimburse those who had to pay property taxes after their manufactured home was struck by a natural disaster through an income tax credit. This provides them with the same treatment given by those who are victims of the same disaster who happen to live in a different style home.

One of the reasons why this bill has been widely supported is that it does not attempt to change the way local taxes are collected. This means that in an event of a disaster the local municipalities can begin the process of rebuilding without having their budgets altered. It helps the victim because they will be able to use the refund to help rebuild their lives, likely contributing that money to the local economy. In the end it also equalizes the tax privileges of those in manufactured homes with their neighbors in stick built homes.

I thank you for your time and am truly grateful to the committee for considering this bill. I believe it will help bring comfort to Kansans who are going through a terrible tragedy.

Sincerely,

Brandon Whipple